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FERGALICIOUS

BEP SINGER DEFLECTS PREGO RUMOURS

{page 10}

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at Mother Tongue
At La Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface
Ages: 13-17
July 25th till August 8th
From 9:30 am till 4:00 pm
Registration Fee: $50.00
Deadline For Registration: July 7th
Mail or fax registration to:
The Mood Disorders Association of Manitoba
4 Fort Street, Suite 100
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1C4
Contact Information: rockcamp.mdam@gmail.com
Office: 786-0867 Toll Free Number: 1-800-263-1460

WINNIPEG metro®

Wednesday, June 15, 2011
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

JAMES TURNER/METRO

Hats off to you, Max!

The Goldeyes and its fans honoured renowned former shortstop Max Poulin by retiring his jersey and placing his number on the outfield wall to commemorate his contributions to his team and the city.

{page 14}

▶ Winnipeg Goldeyes great Max Poulin tips his cap to a packed Shaw Park in Winnipeg last night.

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MTS

1 news

DNA warrant refused in sex-assault case

A Manitoba judge has refused to grant a DNA warrant to a Winnipeg police investigator seeking to lay charges in an unsolved sexual-assault case, saying the biological material won't prove what police believe it would.

The officer recently went before Judge Rocky Pollack to gain his approval to take a suspect's blood on suspicion he sexually assaulted a woman in November 2009.

However, the judge declined the request, saying the DNA sample wouldn't prove anything they didn't already know, and that the passage of 17 months since the incident haven't produced any "exigent circumstance" to require the taking of the man's blood now.

Police were called to the woman's apartment after she called 911 saying a man she feared was in her suite, according to Pollack's decision released to the public this week.

Officers arrived to find the alleged victim saying she had been raped. A man in her suite was found putting his clothes on and was arrested.

In a videotaped interview, he admitted to having "consensual" intercourse with the woman. They took his clothes at the time for forensic testing, but RCMP analysts couldn't identify him, police said.

The officer who inherited the case file in late April drew up a warrant request, saying obtaining his blood "will provide evidence in support of charging (him) with sexual assault."

Pollack disagreed. "The DNA sample sought cannot confirm that (the suspect) 'is in fact the male responsible for sexually assaulting' the woman,'" he said, quoting from the police affidavit.

JAMES TURNER

Residents blame the province

STEVE LAMBERT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ More than 200 people who own cottages and homes along the shores of Lake Manitoba protest outside the Manitoba legislature yesterday. Flood victims forced from their homes around the lake are calling for a state of emergency.

Government has said it will reimburse Lake Manitoba residents for 90% of flood property damage

CHINTA PUXLEY
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

Flood victims forced from their homes around Lake Manitoba are accusing the province of deliberately destroying their properties by diverting water into the swollen lake and then refusing to declare a state of emergency.

About 200 people, many of whom have been out of their homes for two weeks, rallied outside the provincial legislature yesterday.

Tom Teichroeb, a rancher around Lake Manitoba, said he can't understand why there isn't more of a sense of urgency.

"As Canadians we are always quick to jump to foreign disasters like Haiti and Japan, and so we should. That's our responsibility as human beings," he said. "But I think we're at that level, too, right now.

"Not one person has declared this a disaster. Not one."

Chief Barry Swan of the Lake Manitoba First Nation said the government is refusing to accept responsibility for an "intentional flood" that was designed to save residents in Winnipeg.

"We're in a third-world crisis right here in Manitoba," he told the assembled crowd on the legislature steps.

The province has denied it artificially raised the lake's level, pointing to months of wet weather, which has dumped 300 per cent more rain than normal in western Manitoba. Several storms have swept through the area and caused extensive damage.

Premier Greg Selinger says the government is doing everything it can to deal with one of the worst floods in 350 years.

"When you get a situation when you have a one-in-350-year precipitation event, you are going to have some very serious consequences," he told the legislature yesterday.

Book offers parents (and cool aunts and uncles) a guide to the fine art of roughhousing with the kids. Scan code for story.

1 Download the free ScanLife app with your smartphone at 2dscan.com

2 Use your smartphone to scan 2D barcodes in Metro

3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to m.metronews.ca

On the web at metronews.ca

Go behind the scenes to see how Parliament's sign-language interpreters keep up with Ottawa's sometimes raucous antics. Video at metronews.ca

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Mountie slapped with firearms charges

A Mountie stationed at a northern Manitoba detachment faces several firearms charges.

RCMP in Nelson House say Const. James Kenney was charged after an investigation into alleged inappropriate social network postings.

Kenney faces two counts of possessing a prohibited weapon, one count of unlawful possession of firearms and two counts of transporting a restricted firearm without authority.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

29 Const. James Kenney, a five-year veteran, is to appear in court in Thompson on July 29.

For more local news visit metronews.ca/winnipeg

News in brief

Insurance rates to be lowered

REBATES. Manitoba Public Insurance plans to lower basic auto insurance rates after paying out $250 million in rebates this year.

MPI will ask the Public Utilities Board to lower rates by about 6.8 per cent on average, which will lower rates on about 900,000 vehicles.

That means 91 per cent of vehicles will see lower rates next year, while seven per cent of vehicles will stay the same and two per cent will see higher premiums. Most increases will be less than $50, said MPI.

Motorcyclists will see rates decrease about 10 per cent.

ELISHA DACEY

Auditor eyes changes to expense claims

City spends more than $1 million a year on allowance budgets for 15 wards

JAMES TURNER
@METRONEWS.CA

Proposed changes to how City of Winnipeg ward expenses are claimed each year could result in a hike in paperwork headaches for councillors but could improve the controls over how tax dollars are spent, the city's audit department says.

As first reported yesterday on metronews.ca/winnipeg, the department has identified eight areas where policy governing how Winnipeg councillors account for their $72,960 annual ward budgets could be tightened.

The biggest proposed change — and the one likely to cause the biggest hassle for on-the-go councillors — surrounds mileage claims when personal vehicles are used for work.

Currently, councillors claim a per-kilometre rate based on documentation kept for one full month out of their four-year electoral term.

But big fluctuations in mileage and per-kilometre claims in 2010 has prompted the auditor to recommend detailed logs be kept of all trips to ward off potential tax issues.

"Clear evidence can be found that tax courts require detailed mileage logs to support mileage claims," Brian Whiteside and his audit team wrote in a report published yesterday.

COURTESY CITY OF WINNIPEG

▶ St. Boniface Coun. Dan Vandal spent the least this year, coming in at $69,542.

Whiteside also wants to see current rules clarified so that councillors can't simply write "ward issues" on top of receipts.

More documentation is needed to support claims, the report says.

"No expenditure for the fund should be made unless it is related to ward issues."

Claims of charitable donations are also at issue, with seven of 19 councillors incorrectly addressing donation receipts to themselves and not the City of Winnipeg, as required by policy.

As well, the city is potentially missing out on valuable federal GST credits because councillors don't always submit detailed restaurant receipts with the amount of GST they paid, or the GST number associated with the business.

Big spenders

Here's who led the 14 categories of ward-allowance ($72,960) spending in 2010:

- **Councillor's Assistant: $52,255** — Scott Fielding (St. James-Brooklands)
- **Casual Services: $15,478** — Mike O'Shaughnessey (Old Kildonan, retired)
- **Auto Allowance: $9,346** — Mike O'Shaughnessey (Old Kildonan, retired)
- **Printing/Binding/Photocopies: $10,234** —John Orlikow (River Heights–Fort Garry)
- **Telephone: $5,653** — Harvey Smith (Daniel McIntyre)
- **Advertising: $14,298** — Paula Havixbeck (Charleswood-Tuxedo)
- **Postage: $2,974** — John Orlikow (River Heights–Fort Garry)
- **Travel/City Business: $1,965** — Gord Steeves (St. Vital)
- **Business Meetings: $4,321** — Russ Wyatt (Transcona)
- **Stationery: $2,642** — Paula Havixbeck (Charleswood–Tuxedo)
- **Periodicals/Subscriptions: $1,840** — Jeff Browaty (North Kildonan)
- **Office Equipment: $9,700** — Devi Sharma (Old Kildonan)
- **Ward Activities: $30,624** — Paula Havixbeck (Charleswood–Tuxedo)
- **Misc: $175** — Russ Wyatt (Transcona)

$72,953.07

Orlikow OK with more disclosure

The city councillor who spent the most out of his ward allowance budget last year said he has "absolutely no issue" with recommendations made by the city's auditor to tighten reporting policies.

Coun. John Orlikow (River Heights–Fort Garry) was just $6.93 shy of spending his $72,960 ward allowance in 2010. He told Metro he'd like to see greater transparency surrounding disclosure of how city tax dollars are spent.

"My biggest (issue) will always be how it's disclosed," he said. "You can't disclose enough."

One of Orlikow's largest expenditures was $10,234 on binding, printing and photocopying. He said a large chunk of the money went toward the creation of a 21-page guide to help community volunteers set up a group and sustain their idea over the long-term.

"The city didn't have these resources available, so we decided to create one of our own," he said.

JAMES TURNER

News in pictures

PHOTOS
1. COURTESY OF CHRISD.CA
2. COURTESY OF KILDONAN PLACE
3. JAMES TURNER/METRO
4. GETTY IMAGES

1 Education Minister Nancy Allan played basketball with Fort Richmond Collegiate students yesterday after the government announced $50 million for new gymnasiums. METRO

2 Teen retailer Aeropostale will open its first Winnipeg store in Kildonan Place this fall, with a 3,900-square-foot retail outlet. METRO

3 There will be no charges following the death of a local man who was hit by a truck at the corner of Higgins and Main on Monday. See story at metronews.ca/winnipeg. METRO

4 Kiss frontman Gene Simmons, who claims to have slept with more than 5,000 women, will receive a key to the city today. METRO

LASIK MYTH #3
"LASIK is still too new. There are no long term results."
LASIK FACT
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Ashes to ashes, dust to art on canvas

- Artist uses animal furs, feathers and human ashes
- In two years, he has used the remains of 7 bodies

You could say Marc Seguin has a twisted mind.

He's written a story for an upcoming cookbook in which the last survivor on earth eats herself to death, and, perhaps in a nod to Orwell's Animal Farm, is consumed by pigs who create their own world.

The Quebec artist is also fond of using dead animals in his paintings, including their fur and feathers.

Now, with his international star rising, particularly in New York, Seguin is turning heads with the most recent material on his palette: human ashes.

When a friend offered him the ashes of his mother, he spent some time deciding what to do with them. "It's the symbolism of using human ashes that's important here — of life, leaving a trace."

He is using them not to paint posthumous portraits, but rather to do what he is celebrated for — commenting fearlessly on the state of the world and its repeated breakdowns.

CONTRIBUTED

"I have a problem with death.... Why, after living so fully, do the lights suddenly have to go off?"
MARC SEGUIN, ARTIST

Seguin chose bombed-out European churches from the Second World War. The images are stark. Gray and black. Collapsed roofs. Ruined arches. Splashes of blood red.

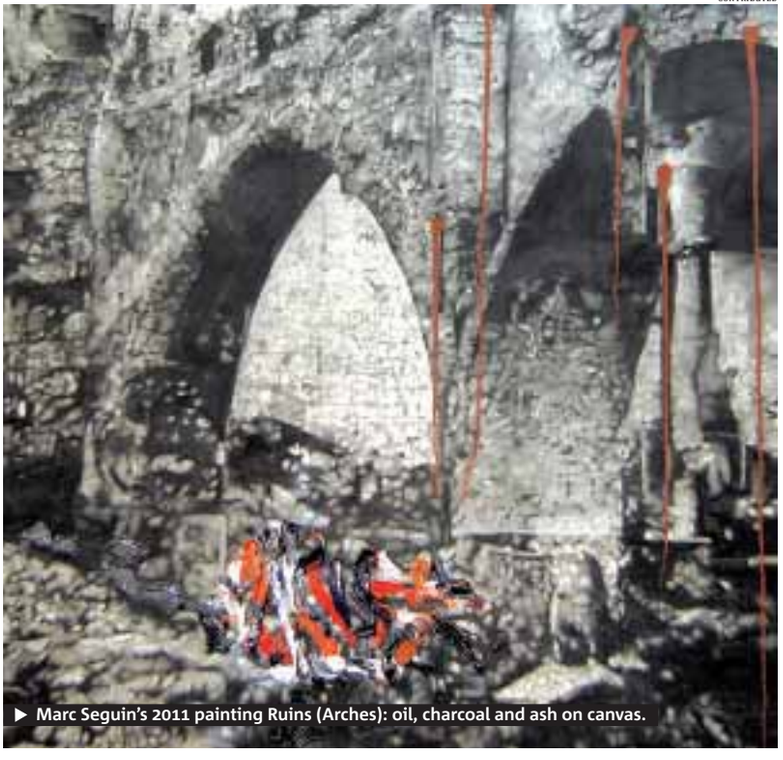
Seguin's treatment of churches extends to life in general. "The human experience has been a failure," he says. "We don't live long enough to correct things over time."

The use of ash in painting is rather simple. Since cremation isn't perfect, he has to pick out pieces of bone, leaving only the fine powder. To that he adds his wet brush. The canvas is moistened so it swells. And when it dries it locks in the pigment.

Seguin says he has received no criticism for using ash. For instance, organic elements such as animal blood are still used to make reds. Word-of-mouth has even led people to donate to his art.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CONTRIBUTED



▶ Marc Seguin's 2011 painting Ruins (Arches): oil, charcoal and ash on canvas.

Crime crackdown in Mohawk communities

Police launched a massive anti-drug crackdown yesterday involving about 500 officers, including the RCMP, at Mohawk communities around Montreal.

A number of searches and arrests have been made in Kanesatake, Akwesasne and Oka. Police said the operation involved organized crime and drug-trafficking at 50 sites. Seizures primarily involved marijuana.

The raids targeted suspects in Kanesatake, a community bedevilled in the past by violent responses to outside police forces operating in its borders. Kanesatake was the site of the Oka Crisis, the 1990 standoff between police and Mohawk protestors.

But Grand Chief Paul Nicholas said this time many members of the community were involved in the police operation because they wanted illegal drug activities booted out.

GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ RCMP officers stand outside the Kanesatake Mohawk reserve in Oka, Que., yesterday where they carried out raids.

"The community's fed up with the drug use," Nicholas said. He also said the problems reach beyond pot, adding that cocaine and pharmaceutical abuse have become a scourge. Nicholas is confident the situation will not get out of hand this time.

Cpl. Luc Thibault said police worked with native police forces to help ensure they could handle the delicate operations on First Nations territories.

38 arrest warrants have been handed out.

"We have a very good collaboration with aboriginal territories because naturally these people don't want drugs and don't want to see organized crime on their territory."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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GEOFF HOWE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Canucks fans in Vancouver console each other following a Boston Bruins goal in game 6.

WILD RIDE NEARLY OVER

JEFF HODSON
@METRONEWS.CA

HOME ICE ADVANTAGE

There was a feeling of queasiness in Vancouver yesterday in the wake of the Canucks' disappointing 5-2 loss Monday against Boston.

It's a nauseated, green-about-the-gills feeling brought on by the stomach-curdling emotional highs and lows of this roller-coaster series.

People seem exhausted emotionally (physically in the case of their beer arms) and are looking forward to the series' culmination tonight.

Something else that has been noted in this most hypersensitive of cities is the nasty tang of bile coming out of the East.

Traditionally, Vancouver fumes at its perceived lack of profile in Central Canada. Now that its team has been acknowledged, it is confused by the hatred toward it.

JEFF HODSON IS MANAGING EDITOR OF METRO VANCOUVER

Canada extends Libya mission

National Transitional Council true representatives of the people: Baird

Parliament has formally extended Canada's military mission in Libya to the end of September as Ottawa endorsed the country's rebels as the legitimate government of the country.

By an overwhelming 294-1 margin, MPs approved the extension yesterday evening after an exhaustive day-long debate on Canada's involvement in the NATO-led, United Nations-sanctioned mission to protect civilians from dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

After the vote, Baird told reporters that he planned to meet soon with a Canadian-based member of the National Transitional Council of Libya. He moved to dispel any apprehension about the council, saying it represents "the best hope" for the future of the Libyan people.

"Whatever happens, they couldn't be any worse than Col. Gadhafi," said Baird.

Canada joins France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates in formally recognizing the council.

Yesterday's vote extends the mission after NATO approved a 90-day extension earlier this month.

Green Party Leader Elizabeth May was the lone dissenter, saying she had concerns about "mission creep."

Paul Dewar, the NDP foreign affairs critic, urged more humanitarian assistance and called for greater efforts to investigate and prosecute alleged war crimes in Libya.

Baird reaffirmed last month's G8 commitment that "at the political level ... Mr. Gadhafi must go."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird delivers a speech on the mission in Libya in the House of Commons yesterday.

Ottawa Libyans react

Libyans in Ottawa were happy that Canada will recognize the National Transitional Council.

"It's good news for me, it's good news for every Libyan," said Malik Taghdi, an Ottawa resident whose parents live in Tripoli. **JOE LOFARO**

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JIM WILKES/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Air Canada workers picket yesterday outside the departures level of Terminal 1 at Pearson International Airport in Toronto.

Feds poised to quash Air Canada strike

Staff could be ordered back to work within 48 hours Union claims up to 25 per cent of flights were cancelled on job action's first day

Ottawa is paving the way for back-to-work legislation for some 3,800 striking Air Canada employees, saying the economy is too weak to withstand a long strike.

"Air Canada has a huge section of the market in Canada in terms of travel," Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said yesterday. "It affects tourists, of course, but it affects business, it affects the delivery of cargo in Canada and from Canada abroad. So this is a matter of significant economic consequence."

The workers went on strike just after midnight yesterday. Pension and wages have been the major stumbling blocks in talks.

Managers have stepped in to replace the striking workers and, aside from slightly longer lineups and some minor delays, it was business as usual at Canada's major airports.

But the striking workers said things weren't running so smoothly behind the scenes and warned that wait times will only get longer as the work stoppage continues.

Air Canada said about one per cent of its flights were pre-emptively cancelled to ease congestion. THE CANADIAN PRESS

We need to talk: Google Voice Search

Google users will soon be able to do a voice or image search on their computers after the company announced new features yesterday.

Google Inc. has been experimenting with voice searching on its mobile platform. Mobile users are now dictating the equivalent of two years of nonstop speech every day into Google Voice Search, and use of the feature has grown sixfold in the past year. Google believes desktop users may also prefer to voice searches rather than type them out.

Google Image Search is exactly as advertised: A user can upload a photo or drag it onto Google's website. A vacation photo, for example, might return search results about the location in that picture, while submitting a logo would display company information.

Google says both features will be released to desktop users in the next few days. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Power of speech

- Google Voice Search lets users speak more complex searches.
- For example, the query "translated to Spanish where can I buy a hamburger" could be voiced into the search engine and the user would be presented with a Spanish translation of "where can I buy a hamburger," or "donde puedo comprar una hamburguesa."

Status update: Facebook woos RockMelt

Facebook has partnered with RockMelt, an upstart social networking browser that revolves around Facebook's online hangout.

The joint venture announced yesterday is the latest update to the Facebook-driven web browser, which RockMelt introduced late last year.

RockMelt's third version builds Facebook friend requests, messages and notifications into the browser's top panel. That way, users can keep tabs on what's happening on their Facebook pages no matter where they are on the web. The upgrade also makes it easier for RockMelt users to keep track of their Facebook friends and chat with them from within the browser. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft
▲ + 158.1 (13,097.82	▲ + 0.83¢ (103.21¢ US)	▲ + $2.07 US ($99.37 US)	$4.581 US (– 6.5¢ US)

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APOLOGY ON BEHALF OF ALL MEN

JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

Is it just me or do other guys feel compelled to apologize for Anthony Weiner the wiener?

If I were a woman, I would think Weiner the wiener is the greatest single argument for asexual reproduction ever. I would rather give birth to spores than have that jerk's baby.

But it's too late. His wife of one year, Huma Abedin, who is Hillary Clinton's closest aide, has been lugging the spawn of Weiner around the world, advising the U.S. secretary of state on matters of global concern while her wiener husband has been sending pictures of his biceps and his John Thomas to porn stars he met on the Internet.

Now the U.S. congressman has "taken a leave of absence" from the House of Representatives as he goes into treatment. Meanwhile, his wife and soon-to-be-born child are still out there trying to get Libya under control and fielding the fallout from the stupid husband tricks back home.

"If I were a woman, I would think Weiner the wiener is the greatest single argument for asexual reproduction ever."

Everyone says he should resign. Even Barack Obama says "If I were him, I'd resign." Weiner the wiener? Think about it. This is the guy who not so long ago was touted as the next mayor of New York City, the Great Democratic Hope. Now, he only qualifies as the Great Democratic Dope, following in the footsteps of the legendary Eliot Spitzer, the former Great Democratic Dope, who now has his own talk show.

Even Spitzer says Weiner the wiener should resign, citing "a flaw in his judgment, in his belief, even up to that point that he could somehow continue to deceive." Spitzer, also married, secretly cavorted with prostitutes at taxpayer expense while attorney general of the state of New York. Well, at least he is an expert on flaws in judgment.

Obviously, Weiner is going through the motions of contrition to try to save his sorry buns of steel while waiting for the talk show offers to come through.

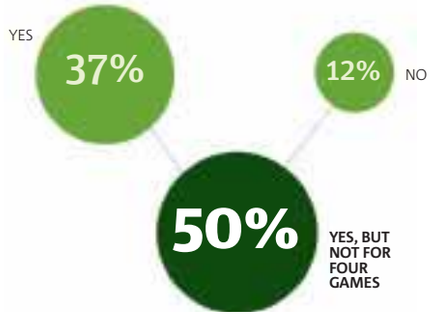
If you're a man (any kind of a man), when you compare Weiner the wiener with Arizona congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, who is courageously trying to regain the power of speech after having been shot in the head while doing her job, it's enough to make you turn in the keys to the F-150 and go back to human school.

So if he won't do the right thing, I will. I apologize to his wife because she seems like a nice person who doesn't deserve to be married to the biggest (smallest?) wiener on the planet, and I apologize to women everywhere who have to be totally fed up with men who haven't got a lick of sense, yet occupy positions of authority while they (the women, that is) continue to get the short end of the ... stick.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Register at metrolifepanel.ca and take the quick poll

Was the NHL right to suspend Vancouver's Aaron Rome?



Local tweets

- **@RacialOverTones:** Air Canada is also now on strike! I'm so angry at this I'm gonna write them a letter and ... oh wait. #aircanada #canadapost
- **@brendangreen18:** shots of tequila upon arrival in Winnipeg. great to be back in the land of opportunity.
- **@JMurd117:** So hot in Winnipeg. Temperature wise black is not a good colour to wear in summer. Aesthetically it looks awesome though.
- **@fighterjoe22:** Some cute girl keeps following me and asking me if I want a metro paper. God bless Winnipeg. I love it!!
- **@truechronnie:** Had the craziest dream that I was driving my Corolla and getting In-and-Out Burger in Winnipeg, we had 2 in the city. Stupid dreams. So dumb
- **@Don_Rocko:** I envy my friends who moved to Winnipeg — they'll be watching the game tomorrow from the safe minimum safe distance.
- **@brovermania:** Is anyone looking for a free ride from Toronto to Winnipeg leaving June 27? No creepos.

Letters

Re: Pedestrian killed after being struck by truck (Metro, June 14)

WINNIPEG. I read the story about the man being hit by the truck downtown while appearing to cross with the light.

While I feel for the man's family, it did not surprise me.

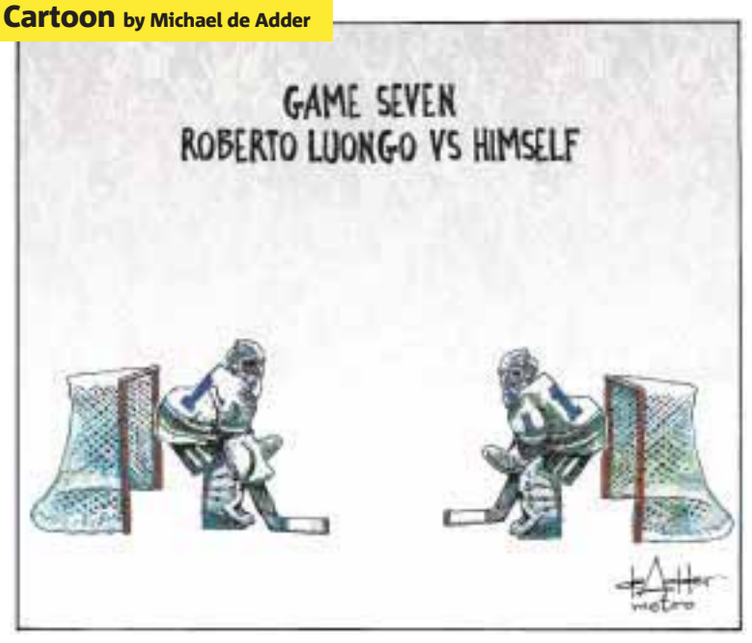
I cannot count how many times I have almost been hit by a car while crossing the streets in Winnipeg. Drivers routinely do not stop at crosswalks to allow pedestrians to cross along the routes I frequent, and when they finally do, there is often a car in the far lane not paying attention.

On side streets connecting to one-way streets, the majority of the time I see drivers approaching the corner with their eyes fixed to oncoming traffic, not pedestrians crossing the street, and stopping well beyond the stop sign.

Drivers need to pay much better attention and realize pedestrians have their rights as well, and they do not include being put in harm's way trying to cross the street.

MELISSA WARDEN

Cartoon by Michael de Adder



WEIRD NEWS

Coming soon: Follow God on Twitter

Too busy to get to church to pray?

A Romanian company is offering believers an online service enabling them to send prayers to priests who will read them out during church services.

Romanian Orthodox Christians customarily write down prayers in church, which are then given to priests who read them out for a small fee. The prayers are traditionally for health, good exam results, happy marriages, and the forgiveness of sins.

Orthodox believers can now pay $1.44 US per day or $34 US online per month for their prayer to be read. Currently, just four churches are enlisted on the site.

Gandul.info reported yesterday that the Romanian Orthodox church, to which more than 85 per cent of Romanians belong, did not approve the move, warning it could lead to laziness. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro
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COURTESY WARNER BROS. PICTURES.

▶ Ryan Reynolds suits up as Green Lantern in the latest DC Comics blockbuster.

Super duper fly role

Despite his abdominal and pectoral supremacy, Canadian-born Ryan Reynolds says he'd like to think he can encompass 'some sort of an average Joe'

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

If people could be bound by anti-trust laws, Ryan Reynolds might find himself on the business end of some serious litigation. Between Hannibal King in Blade: Trinity, Deadpool in X-Men Origins: Wolverine and Hal Jordan in this summer's Green Lantern, the sitcom star-turned-hard bodied leading man has created a superhero monopoly.

Sitting down to chat with the actor, one has to ask, what makes Reynolds so superhero-y?

"Well, first of all, Hannibal King is not a superhero," Reynolds deadpans with his signature sardonic wit. "He's a human being who bleeds and dies if you stab him. Deadpool is kind of an anti-hero, not a superhero. In fact, he'd probably kill you if you called him a superhero. Green Lantern — now that's a superhero," he grins.

Evasive answers aside, the 34-year-old Canadian has undeniably become one of Hollywood's go-to action idols, a distinction Reynolds shrugs off with charming humility. "I'd like to think that I can encompass some sort of an average Joe," he offers.

"That's what [Green Lantern] is. This ring selected this guy for reasons totally baffling to him and everyone around him, for an unbelievable, extraordinary task. But it could be anyone."

His co-stars might beg to differ. "He's a great superhero, but, specifically, he's a great Green Lantern," explains Blake Lively, who plays Carol Ferris, Hal's contentious love interest.

"Green Lantern is a person who is a strong, capable man, but he's also very human and he gets by on his charms. Having someone like Ryan play this character, who has such a heart, humanity and incredible likability, who's disarmingly charming and witty — you really need that."

Peter Sarsgaard, who plays the evil, bulbous-headed Dr. Hector Hammond, adds, "I think it's a kind of honesty. There are a lot of good actors who always seem like they've got a card face down somewhere that they're not telling you about. With Ryan it seems like he has all his cards out all the time. And he manages to still be interesting when doing that."

Nerdy charm

Ryan Reynolds admits there's an inner geek lurking just below his well-hewn surface.

▶ "Yeah, I was a drama geek and all that crap when I was a kid," he says. "And I looked like a young Asian girl until I was 19."

'I've never courted fame': Mark Strong

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

When I tell Mark Strong, the handsome English actor with a jaw line perfectly suited to his last name, that he is almost unrecognizable as the alien enforcer Sinestro in the new Green Lantern movie, he is chuffed.

"Good," he says. "I miss the fact that I can't be somebody that people don't know. I wish that people would encounter Sinestro and say, 'Who is that guy?' Because to blend into the characters dates back to my theatre roots. In drama school I played the 75-year-old character of Moses in Sheridan's The School for Scandal, aged 24. The transformation is the thing I enjoyed most of all."

But what kind of movie star likes to go unrecognized? Surely not someone who has starred in Guy Ritchie and Ridley Scott movies and acted opposite the likes of Robert Downey Jr. and Leonardo DiCaprio?

"The truth is I've never courted fame," he says.

"I don't have a PR machine working for me. I don't go to premieres and openings that I'm not involved in. I don't do interviews or try and get on the telly just to keep my face around."

Strong, an alum of the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, doesn't buy into the North American idea of stardom.

"It is a job," he says. "That's what we're trained for. I think the fact that we have hundreds of years of tradition of acting in Britain… it isn't exotic [to us]. It is a craft. For me film is exotic."

COURTESY WARNER BROS. PICTURES.

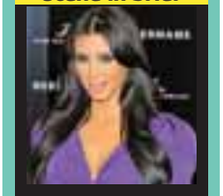
▶ Mark Strong shines as the alien enforcer Sinestro in the new Green Lantern movie.

DAVE HOGAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Mark Strong

2 scene

Scene in brief



A judge has thrown out a $75 million lawsuit filed against the Kardashian sisters after they yanked their endorsement of a prepaid debit card that was criticized for its high fees, saying the reality show stars had no duty to promote a product that might be considered unlawful.

Kim, Khloe and Kourtney Kardashian withdrew their support for the debit card three weeks after the product launched following a warning from Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal that the card's fees were "predatory."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McCartney's first solo disc, received badly at first, gets a second chance. Scan code for story

Fergie isn't pregnant, just really likes tacos

Black Eyed Peas star denies baby rumours ▶ Admits to bad eating habits

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Fergie

Black Eyed Peas singer Fergie says she understands where all the rumors about her baby-making plans are coming from.

"I gain and lose weight everywhere from the thighs up. I think people think that I'm pregnant sometimes because my weight fluctuates," she tells Allure magazine.

"My problem is my discipline. I see a Jack in the Box or a DelTaco, and I will impulsively want it. I'm a work in progress in that area."

Fergie said earlier this year that she's putting her solo career on hold so she can spend time with her hubby, Josh Duhamel.

METRO

"I gain and lose weight everywhere from the thighs up. I think people think that I'm pregnant sometimes because my weight fluctuates"
FERGIE

Talking points

Beckham's are Desperate for a godmother

WHAT AN HONOUR. Victoria Beckham has everything in order for the arrival of her and David Beckham's first daughter, including the baby's godmother.

The Beckhams have reportedly asked Desperate Housewives star Eva Longoria to do the honours, according to the Sun.

"Victoria ran it past David and they both want Eva," a source says. "She's extremely honoured." METRO

Looks like there is no Sex left in the City

DEAD FRANCHISE. The future doesn't look too bright for the Sex and the City film franchise, at least according to one of the series' stars, Kim Cattrall.

"I don't know if it will happen. I really, really have no idea," she tells Popeater. "I love playing Samantha Jones. I would love playing Samantha Jones again, but I don't know if I will." METRO

Lindsay Lohan throws house arrest party

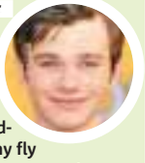
LEARNING HER LESSONS Just because she's being kept under house arrest doesn't mean Lindsay Lohan isn't having any fun.

The troubled actress was spotted throwing a rooftop party at her Venice Beach condominium recently, according to Splash News. While her guests indulged in beer and wine, Lohan wasn't seen drinking, though the soiree was apparently intense enough to necessitate a costume change for the Mean Girls star as the evening wore on. METRO

Celebrity tweets

@torianddean
"Paparazzi chased me w/the kids 2school. I was trying to get away from him and had a pretty big accident. Took down whole wall of school. He thn STILL got out to try to get pics. 10 school moms chased him away. Wht will it take? Someone dying for paparazzi to stop? Going to dr now to check on baby. I think its just shock."

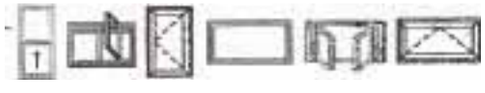
@jimmykimmel
"I'd like parents to start naming boys Barney again."



@chriscolfer
"Oh gosh! Anyone know why Kurt Hummel is trending? Was my fly down at the concert last night or something?"

@JonahHill
"Old people love it when you guess how many years they have left."

WINDOWS



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DARREN PARKMAN

▶ Museum of Fine Arts in Mexico City.

Where to go

- **Main Temple of the Aztecs:** Located downtown, excavation of the great temple began back in the 70s, and isn't finished yet. You can see the ruins from the sidewalk, but for a small fee, you can walk amongst the ruins and check out the on-site museum.
- **Latin American Tower:** This downtown skyscraper has a great open-air terrace on the 44th floor, with observation decks just below. You can also visit the museum on the 37th floor.

¿Yo quiero Segway tour?

Despite the hustle and bustle of one of the world's most populated cities, The Travellin' Canadian took in Mexico City from a Segway The electric vehicle is the perfect way to get a 360 degree view

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

Because it's one of the largest cities in the world, Mexico City is chock-full of fascinating history, monuments and architecture. It would take days, or even weeks, to take in the highlights. That is, if you don't have a Segway!

These high tech puppies can really move, and are really the perfect way to take in the sites in a huge place like this. On a sunny Sunday, after paying a small rental fee, I found myself zipping down famous Reforma Avenue while proudly standing on board my cool new self-balancing electric vehicle.

It's amazing how these machines can zip down sidewalks, streets and alleys without the restrictions of a car or motorcycle. Before long, I had passed the historic and beautiful Palace of Fine Arts, before circling the winged goddess on top of the super tall Monument of Independence.

Another great thing about touring the city on a Segway is all the admiring looks, and even cheers you tend to get from onlookers.

For a brief moment, I felt like a star.

That feeling abruptly ended when I hit a curb at a crowded intersection and awkwardly stumbled off my machine, prompting a few hurtful snickers.

After climbing back on, I pressed on to the Museum of Anthropology, which in itself can be an all-day affair. Here is where many Aztec pre-Columbian artifacts can be seen, including the most impressive original Stone of the Sun, better known as the Aztec calendar. I ended my Segway tour in the huge historical center of the city known as the Zocalo or main square.

This is one of the largest open squares in the world, surrounded by beautiful architecture. Summer is actually the perfect time for a Segway tour of this great city. The hottest, most humid time in Mexico City is early spring. July and August are cooler and more comfortable, perfect for taking in the sites.

3 life

Travel in brief

Need a suggestion for National Canoe Day, from June 25 to 26?

How about strapping your canoe to your roof and driving around with it for the day?

That is among the ideas offered by the Canadian Canoe Museum to mark the occasion.

Other suggestions include staging a canoe-a-thon, a race or "main-street portage."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians volunteering at Haitian orphanage receive as much as they give

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Speedy meets healthy

Rice and noodle pilaf with edamame and grilled shrimp made easy

Beautiful spring weather and longer days often mean a good, home-cooked supper falls by the wayside. Who wants to be in the kitchen, right?

But there are plenty of shortcuts that can help you get a healthy meal on the table in no time.

This rice and noodle pilaf with edamame and grilled shrimp can be on the table in 35 minutes.

Ingredients:

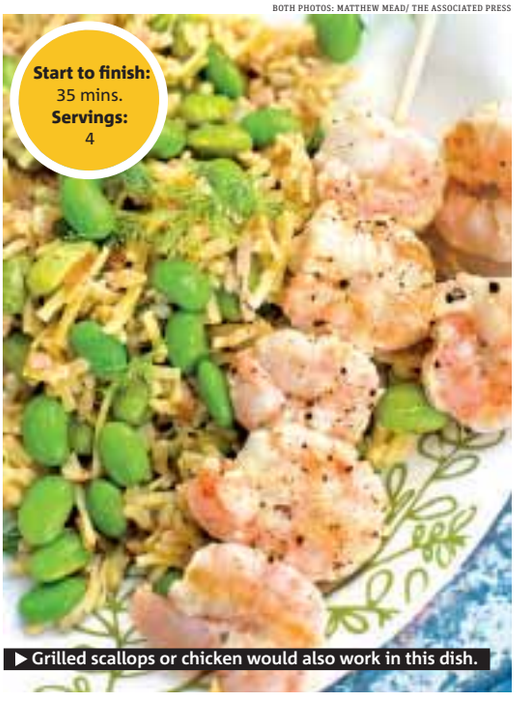
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) plus 10 ml (2 tsp) olive oil, divided
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) lemon juice
- 500 g (1 lb) large raw shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 small red onion, chopped
- 60 g (2 oz) finely chopped Canadian bacon (about 75 ml/1/3 cup)
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) fine egg noodles, broken up
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) instant brown rice
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) dry white wine
- 250 ml (1 cup) frozen shelled edamame
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) reduced-sodium chicken broth
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) chopped fresh dill, more to garnish

Preparation:

1. Light a charcoal fire or heat a gas grill to high.
2. In bowl, whisk 10 ml (2 tsp) olive oil and lemon juice. Add shrimp, toss to coat, then set aside.
3. In saucepan over medium, heat remaining 15 ml (1 tbsp) oil. Add onion and bacon and sauté until onion becomes translucent, about 2 minutes.
4. Add noodles and rice and cook, stirring, until noodles begin to brown. Add wine and cook, stirring constantly, until wine has evaporated, about 2 minutes. Add edamame, broth and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer, covered, for 15 minutes.
5. Meanwhile, thread shrimp onto 4 metal skewers. Season both sides with salt and pepper. Grill until shrimp are pink and firm, about 1 1/2 minutes per side.
6. Remove pilaf from heat and let stand, covered, for 3 minutes. Stir in dill and season with pepper. Serve pilaf topped with shrimp on or off the skewers. Garnish with additional dill.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOTH PHOTOS: MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Grilled scallops or chicken would also work in this dish.

Jamie Oliver chops it up — literally

The chef offers up one of his kids' favourite chopped salads of fennel, romaine, endive and smoked salmon

▶ Oliver's creation makes four servings.

Want to get the kids to embrace salad? Jamie Oliver, star of the Emmy award-winning ABC show Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution, says variety, creativity and plenty of chopping are key.

"Chopped salads are really easy to make and there are so many different options you can come up with. It's a great shortcut to just chop everything up on a board, mixing as you go, then throw the dressing on top, and bring it to the table," Oliver said.

And while plenty of kids like salad only for the dressing, Oliver urges a light touch. "Dressings are important as they make salads more fun to eat, but you only need to add a little bit at a time," he said.

Preparation:

1. On large cutting board, chop carrot, fennel and radishes. Bring it all to the centre of board and continue chopping and mixing together. Add lettuce and endive leaves, continue chopping. When everything is well chopped, assemble it in a mound at the centre of the board.
2. Slice salmon into small pieces, mix into salad.
3. Make a well in middle and drizzle in olive oil, lemon juice and pinch of salt and pepper. Mix up so everything gets dressed, sprinkle with chopped dill, and serve.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients:

- 1 large carrot, peeled and trimmed
- 1 bulb fennel
- Small handful of radishes
- 1 head romaine lettuce
- 2 white Belgian endives
- 250 g (8 oz) smoked salmon
- 90 ml (6 tbsp) olive oil
- Juice of 1 lemon (about 30 ml/2 tbsp)
- Sea salt and black pepper
- Small bunch fresh dill, chopped

metro
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The future should not be foretold

Taking a guess at a young child's scholastic future is a relatively futile and potentially damaging pursuit

Educators often feel that they can predict students' academic futures. For instance, they may think that they can tell how students will perform in Grade 8 or Grade 9 as early as Grades 1 or 2. But there is research evidence to show that predictions about students' futures are often wrong.

There are strong links between characteristics of students, such as their socio-economic status or their school readiness, and their later achievement but these relationships do not hold for all individuals. Many studies show that these predictions turn out to be wrong much more often than most people think. Canadian data shows that more than 40 per cent of students scoring at the bottom reading level at age 15 were in post- secondary education at age 21. Research also shows that the accuracy of predictions about students declines over time; that is, one year's achievement predicts the following year's quite well, but is less accurate in predicting achievement three or four years later.

Web Awareness

For online resources on predictions as well as the research references that inform this issue, please visit:

- cea-ace.ca/facts-on-education

ISTOCK

▶ Whether she's excelling in elementary school or not has little bearing on how she will do as an older student, research shows.

The key thing that the research tells us is that students can and do change. With the right supports, students can achieve far more than anyone thought they could. Encouragement and support from both schools and families can also make those negative predictions less likely to be true.

Parents and educators should be cautious in assuming that the future of their child may be predicted based on their current performance. Secondly, parents should be actively involved in supporting and advocating for their child rather than accepting a negative future. This might include being optimistic with the child about the future, or the child's teacher identifying areas where home and school can work together.

COURTESY OF THE CANADIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (CEA) AND THE ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION/UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (OISE/UT)

Gaining from groups

STUDENT VOICE

SHREE GOVINDARAJAN
TALENTEGG.CA

I graduated from the University of Alberta a couple of months ago, in April 2011. However, the decisions I made about my next steps started much sooner than that.

As soon as my last year at began, I felt the pressure of having to figure out my next move. As a marketing major, my path was not as easily determined as my friends in accounting, engineering, or law. It seemed that all of my friends, no matter their faculty or major, had a job (or at least a few leads) lined up.

Upon their advice, I began searching online for my dream job, which was elusive at best.

After a few months of searching, I realized that part of the reason I was having no luck in finding that "perfect" job was that I didn't really want to find it.

I knew that if I found a job at a company and began working full-time after graduation, I would never leave. I would be a loyal employee, I'd work hard and I'd hopefully be promoted after a few months or years, beginning my stagnancy in life at the age of 21.

I knew I wanted to travel more and see the world, but a simple two-month trip to Europe before settling down didn't feel like enough to me. I wanted to actually experience life in another culture.

This is where AIESEC Edmonton came in. I joined AIESEC, a global internship program entirely run by students, in my first year of university.

Being offered both leadership and exchange opportunities with the organization, I opted for the leadership side for three and a half years of my university education as I truly enjoy helping others succeed.

As AIESEC Edmonton's president in my last year of university, I realized my passion for providing others with the opportunity to go abroad and experience professional opportunities.

Student groups and clubs are the best way for students to experience great levels of leadership and management skills. In these situations, they have the opportunity to achieve a certain level of autonomy that might otherwise take years to hold in the workplace.

TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADS, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE. SHARE IT AT TALENTEGG.CA.

What I learned

Key take-aways from Shree's experience:

- Join student groups and clubs on campus as early as your first to take advantage of leadership and management opportunities – these are the skills most in demand by employers.
- Get involved with international organizations, student or otherwise, for the chance to network with students and professionals from around the work, and the potential to work abroad after graduation.

Where Shree is now

While I am not going on an internship with the organization (yet), my leadership roles and understanding of the AIESEC brand helped me land a job internally – I will be working in Sao Paulo until July 2012 as the National Vice President of Communications for AIESEC Brazil.

I am excited for this next step in my life as this role will help me gain experience that is directly related to my desired future in Marketing and I'll be living in an ever-growing BRIC country for a year.

SUBMITTED

▶ Shree Govindarajan

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4 sports

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ The playoff struggle ends with Game 7 tonight. Either the Bruins or Canucks will earn the right to hoist the Stanley Cup.

Last stand for Stanley

Bruins have outscored Canucks 19-8 through first six games of final

One of the strangest Stanley Cup finals anyone can remember is going to end with something everyone can understand: A single game, with everything on the line, winner-take-all.

All of the bizarre stats and storylines won't matter to the Vancouver Canucks or Boston Bruins if they can find a way to win Game 7 at Rogers Arena tonight.

Vancouver is coming off Monday's 5-2 loss — the third beating it endured in Boston — but should be considered the favourite. The Canucks have been virtually unbeatable at home.

"To tell you the truth it doesn't really matter," Canucks coach Alain Vigneault said of the Game 6 loss. "At the end of the day, they won and we're going back home in front of our fans. One game showdown to win the cup. That's it."

BRUINS CANUCKS

▶ **Time:** 8 p.m.
Channel: CBC

The Canucks are facing Game 7 without Mason Raymond, who suffered a vertebrae compression fracture on a Johnny Boychuk hit early in Game 6. He follows Vancouver's Dan Hamhuis (undisclosed) and Boston's Nathan Horton (concussion) in being knocked out of the final.

Roberto Luongo will have the chance to lift the cup after posting two shutouts at home and getting pulled twice in Boston.

"You can't hang your head now and feel sorry for yourself, that would be the worst thing I could do," said Luongo.

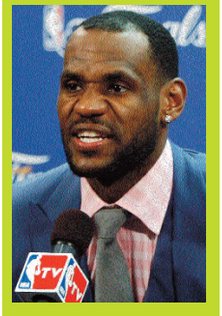
The Bruins have to find a way to bring their best game on the road. They were aggressive in the TD Garden games, but have looked timid at Rogers Arena.

They scored 17 goals in Boston and just two in Vancouver.

"We are very well aware of how we've played on the road the last three games in Vancouver," said Bruins coach Claude Julien. "We've created ourselves another opportunity and it's up to us to take advantage of it.

"But we've got to be hungrier than we have been the last three times in Vancouver." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted



"At the end of the day, I've got to move on with my life. So it wasn't saying that I'm superior or better than anyone else, any man or woman on this planet. I'm not."
MIAMI'S LEBRON JAMES YESTERDAY, CLARIFYING COMMENTS HE MADE AGAINST HIS DETRACTORS AFTER THE HEAT WERE ELIMINATED IN THE NBA FINALS.

"They have to wake up tomorrow and have the same life that they had before they woke up today. They have the same personal problems."
JAMES AFTER GAME 6 SUNDAY NIGHT.

Goldeyes honour legend Poulin

It was a late start at Shaw Park last night as the Winnipeg Goldeyes played host to the Sioux Falls Fighting Pheasants — but the sold out crowd of 7,465 did not seem to mind.

The Goldeyes celebrated Max Poulin Night, as they retired their long-time standout shortstop's No. 6 prior to the first pitch. Poulin played a team-record 676 games for the Fish from 2001-2008 — 206 games ahead of the franchise's next in line. He holds several Goldeyes records including career hits (631) and triples (34).

Poulin, who was presented with a commemorative ring and a framed No. 6 jersey by Goldeyes general manager Andrew Collier, was somewhat overcome with emotion as he addressed the crowd. He paused several times as he thanked many who contributed to his career in Winnipeg. But his fans wouldn't allow him to feel uncomfortable, cheering and hollering, "We love you, Max."

His No. 6 joins Brian Duva's No. 5 and Donnie Smith's No. 21 over Shaw Park's left field wall.

Poulin, a St. Eustache, Que., native, still makes his home in Winnipeg.

DARRIN BAUMING

For results of last night's Goldeyes game against the Fighting Pheasants, go to metronews.ca/winnipeg

Canada on verge of Gold Cup elimination after draw

Blas Perez's stoppage-time equalizer earned Panama a 1-1 draw with Canada and top spot in Group C at the Gold Cup yesterday.

Panama is three points clear of Canada, who needed Guadeloupe to beat the United States in last night's late match to avoid elimination.

Dwayne De Rosario put Canada ahead with a 62nd-minute penalty kick, before a flurry of Panama chances.

Perez eventually scored from close range in a scramble after Gabriel Gomez's shot was blocked. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CANADA	PANAMA
1	1

ORLIN WAGNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Panama goalkeeper Luis Mejia.

Sports in brief

New ratings high in Game 6

NHL. The CBC says Monday's Game 6 of the Stanley Cup final between Vancouver and Boston was its highest-ever-rated NHL game.

CBC says the game averaged an audience of 6.6 million viewers, making it the most-watched NHL broadcast in CBC history. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FBI looking into Armstrong

CYCLING. The FBI has contacted a Colorado restaurant to get surveillance tapes of a conversation between Lance Armstrong and former teammate Tyler Hamilton over the weekend.

Hamilton went on 60 Minutes last month and accused Armstrong of doping repeatedly and encouraging his teammates to do so as well. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sides make progress in NFL labour talks

Don't break out the tailgate gear just yet. An end to the NFL lockout might not be imminent.

It does appears much closer than at any point in the last three months, though. Recent progress in labour talks between the league and players has sparked a new sense of optimism, and team owners have been told to be ready to extend their one-day meetings in Chicago next week.

The two sides made progress in labour negotiations held yesterday at an undisclosed location in Maryland. Those talks will go through at least today and quite possibly to the end of the week. A person with knowledge of the talks told The Associated Press that finalizing an agreement by next week's owners' meetings is unlikely. But a framework for a new collective bargaining deal could be presented in Chicago, with further tweaking extending the work stoppage until the end of the month.

A new CBA could be in place before the July 4th weekend, the person added, speaking on condition of anonymity because details of the meeting are not being made public.

Another person familiar with the talks told the AP that the owners and players are "headed in the right direction" and that lawyers "are back in the room" after being excluded from sessions the past two weeks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mavs focused on present

Big party expected with team owner Mark Cuban picking up tab on tomorrow's championship parade

Dirk Nowitzki was talking about the NBA championship capping his career wish list and how much it meant after all the heartbreaks along the way.

He wondered aloud about trying to find something else that could push him so hard. Then he stopped, laughed and said: "I'm not going to retire or anything if that's what you think."

The Mavericks are back in Dallas after wrapping up the franchise's first title.

While the Mavericks know they'll have the finals MVP back next season, it remains to be seen who will be part of Nowitzki's supporting cast. Starting centre Tyson Chandler, valuable guard J.J. Barea, injured scorer Caron Butler, DeShawn Stevenson, Brian Cardinal and Peja Stojakovic are all free agents.

The NBA's uncertain labour status complicates things.

So, for now, the Mavs are focused on savouring the first title in franchise history.

Barea already has plans to take the championship trophy to Puerto Rico. Nowitzki hadn't asked yet to take it to Germany, but upon hearing about Barea's plan said he liked the idea.

The big celebration will come tomorrow, with a parade through downtown. Team owner Mark Cuban has offered to pick up the tab, so it should be a doozy of a party, especially after the way he celebrated Sunday night in Miami.

Cuban also has thrown out the idea of doing something other than championship rings. Carlisle said he'd be OK with Cuban giving everyone a piece of jewelry in addition to a ring, but when "you win an NBA championship, you've got to have a ring."

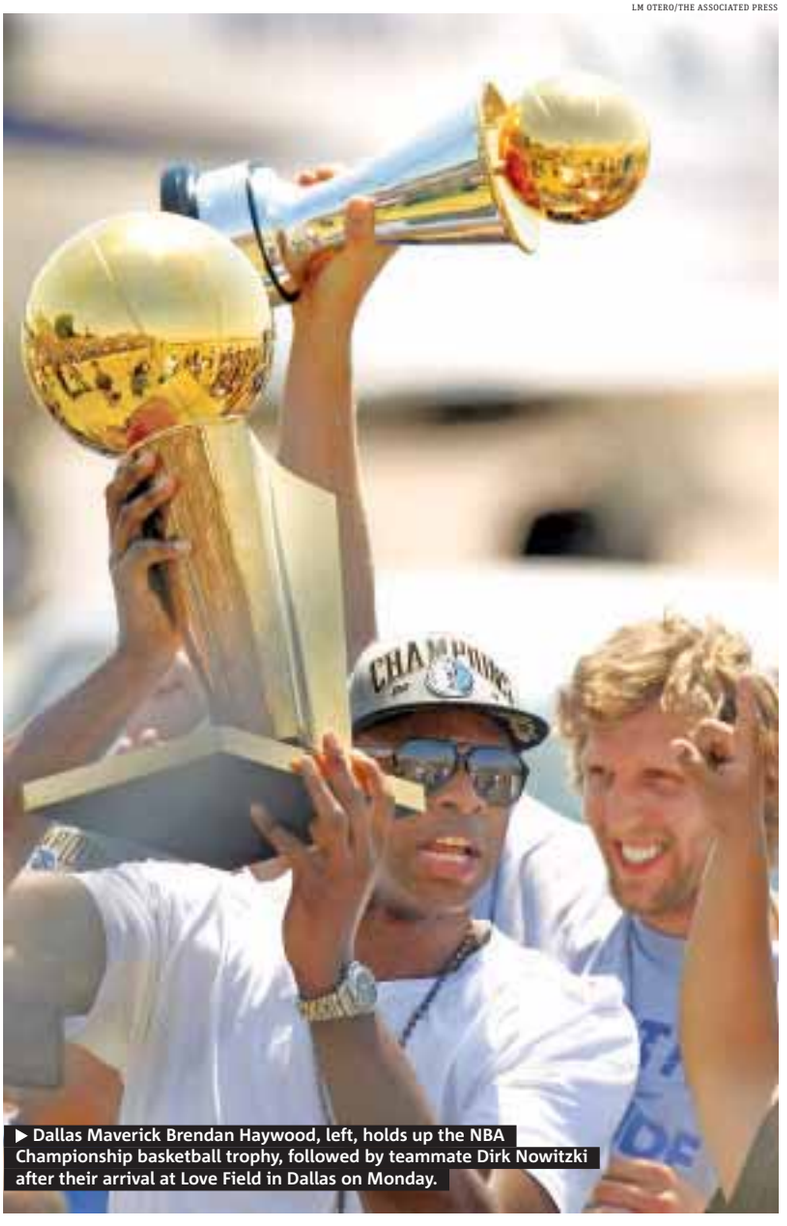
"I don't know what he's thinking," Carlisle said, laughing.

Nowitzki spoke for the locker room when he said, "We've got to talk to him about that. I don't think the last word has been spoken yet. We know he always wants to do something different, something bigger. But the ring is just so classic. ... I mean, I'm a man. I don't know how I'd feel about a bracelet. I'd rather go with a ring." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Robe renewal

Jason Terry delighted in wearing a new white robe with the finals logo on one side of the chest, gold leafs in front of the NBA logo on the other. It was a gift from coach Rick Carlisle, who two years ago took away his favourite robe during a losing streak.

LM OTERO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Dallas Maverick Brendan Haywood, left, holds up the NBA Championship basketball trophy, followed by teammate Dirk Nowitzki after their arrival at Love Field in Dallas on Monday.

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Retuned suspension

Dodge has concentrated on turning the Avenger into a better driving car by retuning the suspension for improved ride comfort and reduced body lean while cornering.

Additionally, the ride height has been slightly lowered (more at the front than at the rear), steering precision has been improved and the distance separating the left and right wheels (track) has been widened by about an inch.

Interior

The previous Avenger's hard plastic dash and door panels have been replaced with soft-touch materials. In fact, the dash plus the gauge pod, vent openings and steering wheel are now borderline sumptuous.

And that also goes for the new seats that come with added bolster support in front. The 60:40 split-folding rear bench continues to fold nearly flat as before, and also includes a pass-through opening for transporting longer items.

Engine

Pop open the hood and the 173-horsepower 2.4-litre four-cylinder base powerplant returns, but is now attached to the sub-frame using improved engine mounts to reduce vibration.

The newly optional 283-horsepower 3.6-litre V6 can now be had in nearly every Chrysler and Dodge model. Along with delivering close to 50 more horsepower than the previous 235-horse 3.5-litre V6, the 3.6 is also much more fuel efficient in city driving.

▶ The Dodge Avenger needed to step it up a notch until Fiat, which controls Chrysler, began injecting its own platforms into the brand. That might be a year or more away, though.

Back with Avengeance

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

Newly preened, prepped and refreshed, the Dodge Avenger is now ready to step back into the mid-size sedan spotlight.

It has been a tough road for the Avenger. The current version that was introduced for the 2008 model year never really caught on with sedan shoppers and was clearly outclassed by higher-quality offerings from Chevrolet, Ford, Toyota, Honda and others.

Given that North American sales in this segment are expected to top two million units this year, it's vital that the Avenger, along with the similarly-sized Chrysler 200, get better, and fast.

Certainly the future appears brighter now that the automaker's Fiat-controlled management has updated the Avenger as well as most of the automaker's other offerings with new style, improved cabins and up-to-date powertrains.

At $21,500, the base Avenger now sells for about $2,900 less than the previous comparable model, something that Chrysler likely felt it had to do to gain some much-needed traction with potential buyers.

With all of the across-the-board improvements, the Avenger's styling still might take some getting used to, but the rest of the package is right on the money.

5 drive

By comparison

Ford Fusion
Base price: $21,550
Popular four-door offered with manual gearbox, plus fuel-sipping hybrid version.

Honda Accord
Base price: $26,350
Easy on gas plus excellent road manners makes this a fun-to-drive sedan.

Chevrolet Malibu
Base price: $25,450
Smooth-running I4 and V6 engines have helped Malibu's popularity.

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Veracruz loved for value and luxury

Though it may not be a well-known model, Hyundai's crossover is a solid bet

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

What's the 4-1-1

- **Model:** 2007 to 2011 Hyundai Veracruz
- **Vehicle type:** Crossover SUV

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ 2007 Hyundai Veracruz

Hyundai's Veracruz hit the Canadian market for the 2007 model year with the goal of putting an affordable luxury crossover on the scene for thousands less than a comparable machine from Germany or Japan.

As the range-topping ute from the Korean automaker, Veracruz offered up top levels of comfort and style, alongside a competitive warranty and honest pricing.

All models got a 3.8-litre V6 with 260 horsepower and a six-speed automatic transmission. Most had All Wheel Drive (AWD), though a lower-priced, front-drive Veracruz was available.

Look for features like power memory seating in heated leather, a sunroof, automatic lights, automatic climate control, multimedia audio connectivity, a 6-CD changer, a rear-seat entertainment console and Bluetooth.

An intelligent key system, auto-dimming mirror and power tailgate were also on board.

What Owners Like

Owners say a combination of quality, styling, interior appearance, safety ratings and a great driving position attracted them to the Veracruz, while attractive pricing and Hyundai's warranty coverage helped seal the deal.

A smooth ride, overall comfort and plenty of power are also reported, and the soundsystem and power tailgate are also a hit.

What Owners Dislike

Complaints include limited third-row seating space, which is a standard gripe in most three-row crossover models. Some owners do report a rough or jarring ride, particularly on models with larger wheels and on rougher roads. A few owners claim the ice-blue displays are difficult to read at night, too.

Common Issues

Start by inspecting all of the Veracruz's options and features for proper operation. Some owners have reported problems getting the keyfob to open the power tailgate, a CD player that won't eject discs, or a faulty "resume" button for the cruise control system.

Ensure these features all work properly — and check the automatic climate control, air conditioner, entertainment console, power seats and all lights, too.

Check the taillamps for signs of cracking, and note that driveability issues related to the engine in terms of "sputtering" or lumpy power delivery are likely caused by failing oxygen sensors. A check-engine light may be illuminated if this is the case.

On AWD models, park on some sand or a similar low-traction surface and accelerate rapidly from a stand-still, ensuring there are no unwelcomed noises or "clunks" as the AWD system engages in response to wheelspin.

The Verdict

Though information is somewhat sparse, the Veracruz looks to be a solid performer with no systematic or glaring problems reported by its small but largely-happy owner community.

Check out Justin's video car reviews online at youtube.com/mr2pritch.

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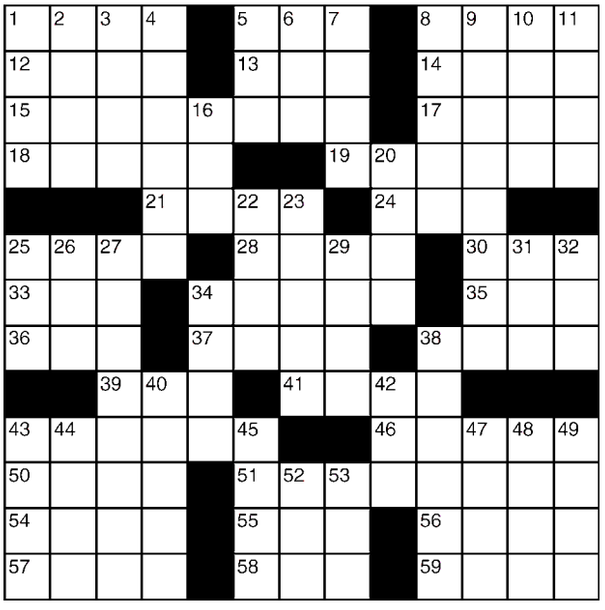
Crossword



Across

1 Rebuff a masher
5 Tavern
8 Large-mouth fish
12 Green land
13 Expert
14 Aware of
15 Precede in time
17 Ollie's partner
18 Fashion
19 Eye surgery tools
21 Hollywood clashers
24 Has the skill
25 Open a bit
28 Impetuous
30 Promptly
33 Solo of "Star Wars"
34 "Inferno" writer
35 Shock and —
36 Pismire
37 Sax range
38 Region
39 Right angle
41 Duel tool
43 Tilted typeface
46 More ironic
50 Hayworth or Moreno
51 Eland, for one
54 The same, in a bibliography
55 Regret
56 Pressing need?
57 Antitoxins
58 CSI evidence
59 Egg container?

Down

1 The Red & Black
2 Dryer collection
3 Bohemian
4 Device for apples
5 Sheepish remark?
6 Performance
7 Fishing-line holder
8 "Blame It on the — Nova"
9 Insect's sensory organs
10 Celebrity
11 D.H. Lawrence's "— and Lovers"
16 B.A., e.g.
20 Liniment target
22 Exam format
23 Health, in Le Havre
25 "Eureka!"
26 One of the Brady bunch
27 Aardvark
29 Halt
31 Hooter
32 Drench
34 "Persistence of Memory" artist
38 European capital
40 Camel's cousin
42 Ram's fan?
43 Colored eye part
44 Ocean motion
45 Jack or queen
47 Bygone times
48 Long narrative poem
49 Landlord's due
52 Sister
53 Afternoon gathering

▶ Monday's answer

H	A	S	P	■	P	I	C	■	P	E	R	P		
A	L	O	E	■	R	A	H	■	O	D	O	R		
W	E	L	L	D	O	N	E	■	T	I	L	E		
■	■	■	V	O	W	■	N	E	A	T	L	Y		
S	P	R	I	G	■	V	I	E	S	■	■	■		
P	I	E	S	■	B	E	L	L	H	O	P	S		
I	K	E	■	S	O	I	L	S	■	V	A	L		
T	E	L	L	T	A	L	E	■	L	U	L	U		
■	■	■	A	I	D	S	■	G	I	M	M	E		
P	A	P	Y	R	I	■	P	E	T	■	■	■		
O	L	I	O	■	C	E	L	L	M	A	T	E		
M	E	N	U	■	E	R	E	■	U	R	I	S		
P	E	S	T	■	A	G	A	■	S	E	N	T		

Sudoku

	5		3			1		
1			9					4
		6		5	1			8
		3		9	7			5
6			4	3		2		
4			1	6		8		
5					3			7
		2			5		9	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Monday's answer ▶

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Hunni T xxxo, I miss you so much when we spend these long days apart. It seems it has not stoped raining since you took these long shifts. Can't wait to spend more time with you.I hope you get a chance to read this in the paper at work **HUNNI S**

Bernie Bear Love Birds
It's been 18 years that we have been together..where has all the time gone? Here's to another 18 years together. **OODLES OF NOODLES**

Jenny C, You mean so much to me. I remember our 1st date like it was yesterday. You were the 1st person to compliment my special gravy. You said they were the best potatoes you ever had. You were also the first peron brave enough to try my signature lemon squares. I am happy to be your little hacker hehe LOL. Lots of love **THE LUCIFER <3**

A look at the weather

Jenna Khan, Weather Specialist

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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You will be in a restless mood today. Maybe it's time to start planning your next vacation.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Money matters and family issues must be handled with care today.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Because today's lunar eclipse falls in your opposite sign, you will find yourself at odds with a partner or loved one over something trivial.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Nothing in life is worth getting worked up about. Make that your motto.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Is a plan or project that has been close to your heart for some time worth carrying on with? Give it some thought.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Some kind of disruption is likely today, especially on the home front where feelings are running high.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Be careful when revealing your thoughts. Some won't sit well with others.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 If your head tells you one thing but your heart tells you another, you should favour logic over longing.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 No matter how much certain people may annoy you, there is nothing to gain by getting angry.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Today's eclipse falls in the most sensitive area of your chart. You'll be touchy over the next 24 hours.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Everyone is hypercritical. It doesn't help that you need their approval.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Ultimately, all change is good change, though it may not seem that way at the time. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

GUS RUELAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALASTAIR GRANT/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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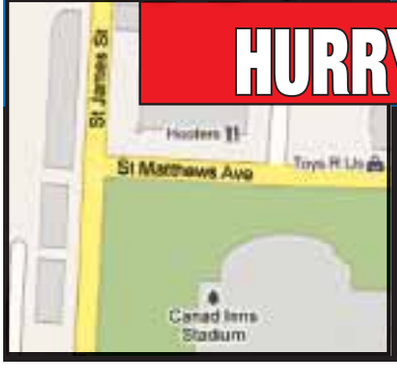

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